

October 13, 2025 – Dinamani Newspaper – Tit bits

1. The death toll from landslides and floods caused by heavy rains in central and southeastern Mexico has risen to 41.
 - i. The state of Veracruz alone received more than 540 mm of rain from October 6 to 9.
 - ii. As the Cazonas River overflowed, cars were swept onto the roads and crashed into each other.
2. An International Peace Conference will be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Monday (Oct. 13) to celebrate the Israel-Hamas ceasefire.
 - i. The conference, which will be attended by various world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, will discuss ways to achieve lasting peace in Gaza; reports say the Gaza peace agreement will be formally signed.
 - ii. The US President Trump recently proposed a 20-point peace deal to end the war between Israel and Gaza's Hamas, which began in 2023. Israel and Hamas agreed a few days ago to accept the first phase of this agreement, release the remaining hostages and prisoners, and temporarily halt the fighting. Hamas has withdrawn its troops from various parts of Gaza in order to allow the release of Israeli hostages.
 - iii. Trump's initiative has been welcomed by several countries, including India.
 - iv. More than 20 world leaders, including British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, will attend the summit co-chaired by US President Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. UN Secretary-General António Guterres will also take part.
 - v. The United States, Egypt, and Qatar acted as mediators to bring about a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.
3. The Philippine Coast Guard officials have accused a Chinese coast guard vessel of attacking and damaging their country's ship in the South China Sea.
 - i. The Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship was anchored near the Philippine-occupied island of 'Tittu'. Then the Chinese Coast Guard and suspected fighter ships aggressively approached the ship.
 - ii. Later, the Chinese ships used powerful water cannons to attack the Philippine ship, causing one ship to ram into the stern of the ship. However, officials confirmed that none of the crew members on board were injured.
 - iii. The 'reef' island is the largest of nine Philippine-occupied islands in the Spratlys archipelago in the South China Sea. It is claimed by several countries.
 - iv. China, which claims the entire South China Sea, has established military bases on seven nearby artificial islands, including Subi Reef, which is 20 km from the reef.
 - v. The incident has placed another major strain on the Marcos administration, which has already been hit by internal crises including earthquakes and typhoons.
4. The US President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon (Department of Defense) to continue paying military personnel without interruption.

- i. Thousands of employees have been temporarily furloughed due to the US Government shutdown that began on the 1st. Many are working without pay.
 - ii. Every year, a budget bill must be passed by the US Congress (Senate and House of Representatives) to approve the budget needed to operate the US Government. However, due to disagreements between the current ruling Republican Party and the opposition Democratic Party in the Senate, the funding bill for this year has not been passed. As a result, the US Government has been shut down since the 1st of last month.
 - iii. There are currently 1.3 million active-duty personnel serving in the United States military. The Department of Defense said they will be paid from the Rs.70,976 crore (\$8 billion) in the Research, Development, Test and Evaluation Fund.
 - iv. For the third time in the past 12 years, Government Departments have shut down, leaving security personnel and their families deeply worried. Notably, when Government services were suspended in earlier instances, Parliament enacted a law to ensure that military personnel would continue to receive their pay.
5. Although the Supreme Court gave permission to appoint temporary judges to quickly resolve the hundreds of thousands of pending criminal cases across the country, it has emerged that none of the High Courts have sent any recommendations for this over the past nine months.
- i. There are over 18 lakh criminal cases pending across the country, thousands of which have been pending for years.
 - ii. On January 30, the Supreme Court ordered the High Courts to appoint temporary judges to expedite the resolution of these cases.
 - iii. Article 224A of the Constitution allows for the appointment of retired judges as temporary judges in the High Courts to help expedite the disposal of a large number of pending cases.
 - iv. Under this rule, the Supreme Court has authorized the appointment of temporary judges. The Court specified in its order that appointments of temporary judges must not exceed 10 percent of the total sanctioned judge positions.
 - v. As per the procedure for appointment of judges to the High Court, the High Court Collegiums will send the names of the judges to the Department of Justice of the Union Law Ministry. The Union Law Ministry will attach additional information to the recommendation and send it to the Supreme Court Collegium for consideration.
 - vi. The Supreme Court Collegium will select names from this list and recommend them to the Central Government for appointment as High Court Judges.
 - vii. If the Central Government accepts it, the President will sign the judge appointment order and a new judge will be appointed. The same procedure will be followed in the appointment of a temporary judge, although the President's signature will not be included in the order appointing a temporary judge. However, the President's approval will be obtained.

- viii. Sources in the Union Law Ministry said, "Out of 25 High Courts across the country, not a single High Court has yet submitted a recommendation regarding the appointment of temporary judges."
6. India and the European Union successfully concluded the 14th round of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement.
- The two sides aim to finalize the deal by December. The five-day talks, which began in Brussels on October 6, focused on trade in goods and services.
 - The India-European Union agreement covers 23 policies, including trade in goods and services, investment, customs and sustainable development. This also includes the Investment Protection Agreement and the Agreement on Geographical Indications.
 - In 2024-25, India's bilateral trade with the European Union reached US\$ 136.53 billion (about Rs. 12.12 lakh crore). Of this, India's exports were US\$ 75.85 billion (about Rs. 6.73 lakh crore) and imports were US\$ 60.68 billion (about Rs. 5.39 lakh crore).
 - Bilateral trade in services was estimated at US\$51.45 billion (Rs.4.57 lakh crore) in 2023.
 - The European Union accounts for 17 percent of India's exports, while the European Union's exports to India account for 9 percent of its global exports.
7. Bhavana Chaudhary has been appointed as the first woman flight engineer in the Border Security Force (BSF) aviation wing in 50 years.
- The BSF Chief Daljit Singh Chaudhary recently presented medals to five officers, including Bhavana Chaudhary, who completed the training. With this, Bhavana Chaudhary was appointed as the first woman flight engineer in the BSF aviation wing.
 - The BSF, formed in December 1965, has a strength of around 3 lakh personnel. It guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh and also helps in internal security.
8. China has warned that it will take appropriate retaliatory measures if the US imposes an additional 100 percent tariff on goods imported from China.
- China has also justified its action by saying that 'the new export restrictions on rare earth minerals and related products are a legitimate measure to safeguard world peace.'
 - Export restrictions: China has imposed new restrictions on the export of rare minerals. This means that foreign companies will have to obtain special permission from the Chinese government to take rare earth minerals mined in China abroad by ships.
 - Furthermore, Government permission must be obtained to export technologies used in the mining, smelting, and recycling of rare earth minerals. In addition, China announced that any export requests for metals used in military equipment were being canceled.